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vampires occur in the West Indies. An interesting chapter is devoted to the habits of the rare *Papilio homerus* of Jamaica.

On the whole, the book will probably serve its purpose, viz., to stimulate young people to an active, wholesome interest in the field work of natural history.

**L'Amateur de des Papillons.**<sup>4</sup>—This handy volume is one of the series, *Bibliothèque des Connaissances utiles*, contributed by M. H. Coupin, and is intended for the use of amateur butterfly collectors. After a brief discussion of the organization and life-history of this order of insects, in the course of which is given a concise account of "mimicry," polymorphism and parthenogenesis, the author comes at once to the main idea of the work, namely, advice to the amateur collector. Descriptions of articles included in a good outfit for collecting and preserving material are followed by advice as to where and how to find different species, not only of the adult but of the chrysalid, caterpillar and egg. Finally, a chapter on mounting and displaying the collection completes this admirable book of instruction.

The book is profusely illustrated, a matter of considerable importance where the text is necessarily so concise.

**Monographic Revision of the Pocket Gophers.**<sup>5</sup>—This work is one of the North American Fauna Series, published by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. It has been prepared by Dr. Merriam after a critical study of over a thousand specimens, including many types, and constitutes a monograph of the family Geomyidae, exclusive of the genus *Thomomys*. The systematic descriptions of the genera and species are prefaced with a discussion of the morphology of the skull, and a description of some remarkable dental peculiarities as to the distribution of the enamel discovered by the author during his investigation. The opening chapter contains an interesting account of the habits and distribution of these animals, variation, both sexual and individual, and a key to the genera.

The book is well illustrated with 20 full-page plates, 71 text figures and 4 maps, 3 of which show the distribution of the different genera, and one gives the distribution of the species of *Geomys* and *Cratogeomys*.

<sup>4</sup>L'Amateur des Papillons. Guide pour la Chasse, la Préparation, et la Conservation. By M. Henri Coupin, Paris, 1895. B. Ballière et Fils, Editeurs.

<sup>5</sup>North American Fauna, No. 8. Monographic Revision of the Pocket Gophers, Family Geomyidae (Exclusive of the species of *Thomomys*). By Dr. C. Hart Merriam. Washington, 1895.

A *Geomys lutescens*, kept in confinement by Dr. Merriam, could run backward as rapidly and easily as forward. The well-known peculiarity of the external genitalia of the male, which are so hidden and modified that the sexes are determined with difficulty, is doubtless connected with this habit, the parts being protected from injury when the animal is moving backward. Another fact learned by Dr. Merriam from the captive *Geomys* is that the tail functions as an organ of touch. It is rather large and fleshy, and is apparently endowed with special tactile sensibility, and is evidently of great value in warning the animals of the presence of an enemy in the rear when they are traveling backward in their dark tunnels.

Dr. Merriam has divided these animals into several genera, but the characters regarded as definitive seem to be hardly sufficient for that purpose. They appear to us to be more properly sections of a single genus.

**A Monograph of the Bats of North America.**<sup>6</sup>—This work is one of a series of papers intended to illustrate the collections belonging to the United States National Museum. It is, in reality, a revision of a monograph published in 1864 by the same author, with such additions as have been necessitated by the study of new material. The old descriptions have been elaborated, the new standards of comparisons adopted, and many newly observed anatomical details included in the introduction.

The region covered by the monograph includes North America, extending to the southern limit of the United States.

Thirty-eight plates, of skillfully executed drawings, give the details of the external characters, of the osteology and of the dentition. The work is authoritative in this branch of N. American mammalogy, and the student of this subject will find it a *sine qua non*.

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#### RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

ABBOTT, W. J. L.—The Ossiferous Fissures in the Valley of the Shode, near Ightham, Kent. Extr. Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., 1894. From the author.

ALLEN, J. A.—Descriptions of Ten New North American Mammals, and Remarks on Others. Extr. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Nov., 1894. From the author.

<sup>6</sup> Bulletin of the U. S. Natl. Mus., No. 43. The Bats of North America. By Harrison Allen, M. D., Washington, 1893.